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LETTER DATED 28 MARCH 1996 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 28 March 1996, addressed to you by Mr. Abd al-Ghani Abd al-Ghafur, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 28 March 1996 from the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to an article published in the 26 March 1996 issue of the British newspaper The Independent and written by its correspondent Patrick Cockburn, reporting statements of an agent of the United States Central Intelligence Agency who admitted to planning the explosion of car bombs in Baghdad and Salah al-Din as well as other regions of Iraq, on direct instructions from the Central Intelligence Agency.

This information confirms once again the involvement of United States official agencies in flagrant terrorist activities against the people of Iraq in a desperate attempt to disrupt peace and stability in the country and to interfere in its internal affairs with a view to causing harm to its national authority. Such operations reveal beyond the shadow of a doubt the deceit and falsity of the United States Administration in asserting that it is striving to eliminate and combat terrorism everywhere, when at the same time it carries out immoral terrorist operations itself against the proud people of Iraq, thus raising an important question regarding the credibility of a major State and permanent member of the Security Council that speaks in high-sounding terms of being a guardian of human rights and international law.

I have the pleasure to transmit to you a copy of the article referred to, with the request that you circulate it to all States Members of the United Nations as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abd al-Ghani ABD AL-GHAFUR
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of
the Republic of Iraq

THE INDEPENDENT. 26 March 1996

CIA 'backed Iraqi bombers'

EXCLUSIVE

PATRICK COCKBURN

The United States gave financial backing to an Iraqi opposition movement that planted bombs in Baghdad and other cities, killing more than 100 civilians, according to a key member of the group.

Abu Amneh al-Khadami, the chief bomb-maker of an Iraqi party, called the Iraqi National Accord, said that he planted car bombs and other explosive devices in Iraqi cities.

The US has long admitted funding covert operations in northern Iraq, spending $15m (£10m) last year. Other Iraqi opponents of Saddam Hussein have said that the Iraqi National Accord Party is sponsored by the CIA. This is confirmed by Abu Amneh who said that a telephone call from Washington got him out of jail last year, enabling him to start his bombing campaign. He quotes his superior officer as expressing the fear that "the Americans will cut off financial aid to us".

His disclosures come at an embarrassing moment for the US, which has just attended a high-profile summit in Egypt hammering state-sponsored terrorism. A follow-up meeting is planned for later this week.

In the Middle East, condemnation of Iran for supporting Hamas suicide bombers in Israel will be seen as hypocritical if there is no mention of the US role in Iraq.

A senior member of the Iraqi opposition said: "More than 100 civilians have been killed by the bombs in Baghdad in the last three or four years." He added that the bombers had "zero concern" for civilian casualties.

Abu Amneh gave his testimony in front of a video camera at his headquarters in the Kurdish city of Sulaimanyah, northern Iraq. His motive was that he has not been paid for operations already carried out, as well as fears that he was being betrayed by his superior officer.

To justify his conduct he sent copies of the video to Iraqi leaders abroad, one of whom passed it on the *Independent*, saying he was disgusted by the feckless violence it revealed. Abu Amneh explained in detail how he obtained the explosives and timing devices. He complained at one point that he had received only $1,000, although "we blew up a car and we were supposed to get $2,000".